

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IN, US

SUBJ: ASSOCIATED PRESS STORY ON PRIME MINISTER GANDHI

1. AN ASSOCIATED PRESS DISPATCH FROM NEW DELHI WRITTEN BY MYRON BELKIND DESCRIBES MRS. GANDHI'S LATEST ACCUSATION OF THE UNITED STATES IN TERMS OF "HER LACK OF FAITH IN THE WORLD OF THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT."

2. THE STORY NOTES AMBASSADOR SAXBE'S ASSURANCE TO MRS. GANDHI THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS NOT INTERFERING IN INDIAN AFFAIRS. IT CONTINUES: "SAXBE'S ASSURANCES FOLLOWED THOSE OF POWER ENVOY DANIEL P. MOYNIHAN, WHO HAD INITIALLY VOWED TO MRS. GANDHI THAT THE UNITED STATES HAD NO HAND IN THE 1973 OUSTER OF CHILEAN PRESIDENT SALVADOR ALLENDE. MOYNIHAN WAS EMBARRASSED BY THE SUBSEQUENT REVELATIONS THAT THERE HAD BEEN COVERT U.S. BACKING OF THE CHILEAN LEADER'S OPPONENTS. HE CABLED SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY A. KISSINGER IN SEPTEMBER 1974 THAT THE REVELATIONS HAD CONFIRMED MRS. GANDHI'S 'WORST SUSPICIONS AND GENUINE FEARS' ABOUT AMERICAN POLICY TOWARD INDIA."

3. THIS IS NOT CORRECT. AT NO TIME DID I EVER TELL MRS. GANDHI THAT THE U.S. HAD NO HAND IN THE OUSTER OF ALLENDE. DAVID SCHNEIDER MUST BE THE FINAL JUDGE OF THESE

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MATTERS, AS MY MEMORY IS HOPELESS, BUT I AM ALMOST

ABSOLUTELY POSITIVE THAT AT NO TIME DURING MY TERM AS
AMBASSADOR TO INDIA DID I EVER DISCUSS THE SUBJECT WITH
ANY INDIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL, FAR LESS THE PRIME MINISTER.

4. THIS IS AN IMPORTANT POINT. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS STORY
HAS IT THAT I VOWED TO THE PRIME MINISTER THAT SOMETHING WAS
NOT SO WHICH SHE WOULD NOW HAVE REASON TO THINK WAS SO, AND
WOULD ACCORDINGLY HAVE REASON TO THINK THAT THE WORD OF THE
AMERICAN GOVERNMENT MAY NOT BE ALL THAT IT SHOULD BE.

5. I NEVER SPOKE WITH THE PRIME MINISTER ABOUT AMERICAN
INTERFERENCE IN HER INTERNAL AFFAIRS, BUT HAD THE OCCASION
ARISEN, I WOULD HAVE SAID EXACTLY WHAT AMBASSADOR SAXBE SAID.
MOYNIHAN

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